

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BLANTY 00994 111535Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 L-03 RSR-01

/100 W

----- 052824

R 111338Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6317

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS BLANTYRE 0994

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MI

SUBJECT: LAW ON DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

REF: BLANTYRE 804

1. AT SPECIAL SESSION PARLIAMENT JULY 10, ACT INTRODUCED WITH FOLLOWING PROVISIONS: "(1) ANY PERSON WHO, BY ANY MEANS WHATSOEVER, COMMUNICATES, OR ATTEMPTS TO COMMUNICATE, TO ANY PERSON OUTSIDE MALAWI ANY FALSE STATEMENT, INFORMATION, REPORT OR RUMOUR WHICH HE HAS CAUSE TO BELIEVE MAY BE PUBLISHED OR BROADCAST, EITHER IN THE FORM OR LANGUAGE IN WHICH HE COMMUNICATES IT OR IN SOME OTHER TO THE PUBLIC GENERALLY IN SOME PLACE OUTSIDE MALAWI OR TO ANY SECTION OF SUCH PUBLIC SHALL BE GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE IF SUCH PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST MAY REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO BE HARMFUL TO THE INTERESTS OR TO THE GOOD NAME OF MALAWI; (2) ANY PERSON WHO COMMITS AN OFFENCE AGAINST THIS SECTION SHALL BE LIABLE TO A FINE OF TWO THOUSAND KWACHA AND TO IMPRISONMENT FOR FIVE YEARS; (3) IT SHALL BE A DEFENCE TO A CHARGE UNDER SUBSECTION (1) FOR THE ACCUSED TO

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PROVE THAT, PRIOR TO COMMUNICATING, OR ATTEMPTING TO

COMMUNICATE, THE STATEMENT, INFORMATION, REPORT OR RUMOUR IN QUESTION HE TOOK SUCH MEASURES TO VERIFY THE ACCURACY OF SUCH STATEMENT, INFORMATION, RUMOUR OR REPORT AS TO LEAD HIM REASONABLY TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS TRUE."

2. IN ADDRESSING PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT BANDA EXPLAINED IN DETAIL CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING FALSE STORIES ABOUT CLASH BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND MALAWI FORCES SENT BY "SO-CALLED JOURNALISTS." AS RESULT OF INVESTIGATIONS, EIGHT PERSONS RESPONSIBLE IDENTIFIED AND ARRESTED OR DEPORTED. PRESIDENT SAID THEIR MOTIVE WAS INTERNALLY TO CAUSE DISSATISFACTION, DISUNITY AND MISTRUST, AND EXTERNALLY TO DAMAGE REPUTATION OF MALAWI AND IF POSSIBLE TO CAUSE TROUBLE BETWEEN MALAWI AND ITS NEIGHBORS. PRESIDENT ADDED HE HAD NO DOUBT BUT THAT JOURNALISTS WERE ACTING AS AGENTS OF DISSIDENT EX-MINISTERS NOW RESIDING ABROAD.  
BURDETT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1973BLANTY00994  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LAW ON DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION  
**TAGS:** PINS, MI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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